

PRESCRIBED GRAZING (528)
REQUIREMENTS IN TENNESSEE
2016 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Purpose: To improve or maintain quantity and quality of forage for grazing and browsing animals' health and productivity. Managing proper forage height has many benefits including but not limited to: increased forage production (some studies show 37.5% faster regrowth), stand persistence is four times longer, weed pressure is 4x less, less internal parasites, reduced water runoff, greater infiltration, improved organic matter and improved nutrient cycling.

Objective: Maintain forage height for improved soil, plant and animal health. Open and shut gates or use temporary fence to control livestock from grazing below designated minimum heights.

Eligible Land: Pasture or pasture which needs cross fencing and/or watering facility to manage livestock and prevent overgrazing. **Four and eight paddocks per herd can be any fence that controls the livestock. Temporary wire like polywire is strongly recommended for cross fencing and dividing areas less than 10 acres.** Contact your local conservationist for recommended paddock size "Cowboy Math". This practice will be contracted for up to three years with the total contract not lasting for over 3 years. **Prescribed Grazing must be contracted for one or two years after installing cross fencing and/or watering facility practices.**

Vegetation Management Requirement: To reap the most benefits from prescribed grazing practice the principle of "take half leave half" leaving even more height will provide more long term benefits. (e.g. turn in livestock to a field when it is 8" tall and remove them when it is 4"). We are not concerned with when the livestock enter a field but it is imperative that they be removed prior to the forage being grazed below the following listed heights. No more than 20% of the fields on the farm can be grazed below these set limits at any time from **April through November.**

Forage species	Minimum forage height to remove livestock
Tall fescue, orchardgrass, brome grass	3-4"
Bermudagrass	2-3"
Tall upright grasses: Johnson grass, Native warm season grasses	6-8"

If forage is grazed down to these heights on all fields feed hay or other supplementation till regrowth occurs. The area fed on should be an area away from sensitive areas like streams and other water bodies, drainageways or steep slopes. Ideally the feed area would also be on land needing nutrients. Get with your local conservationist to help identify the best area to feed on. In winter it is recommended to feed on most all fields to best utilize nutrients from manure. Although you are not required to maintain the forage heights listed above in winter the forage and associated benefits will be greatest if forages are not grazed much below these recommended minimum heights.

Documentation: Follow CPS 528 and TN-MGT-10 documentation requirements. In addition, provide pictures of pasture fields with a landmark such as a fence or other permanent structure in them showing the height after grazing. Picture should be taken August through November.

Two options for contracting Prescribed Grazing: Pasture Standard (minimum of 4 paddocks) per herd or Pasture Intensive (8 or more paddocks) per herd

Note: _____

Producer Signature

Date